



# GA Power Solar Buyback Program

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### How the Solar Buyback Program Works

Ever wondered what happens to your excess solar energy in Georgia? Well, here's the deal: The GA Power solar buyback program pays residential users 4.5¢ per kWh for surplus electricity fed back to the grid. That's about 30% lower than the retail rate, but wait - there's more to this story.

Unlike Arizona's SRP program (which offers 1:1 credits) or Texas' rolling 12-month balance system, Georgia's approach uses "avoided cost" pricing. Essentially, you're getting paid what the utility would've spent generating that power themselves. Not perfect, but considering only 23 states mandate solar buybacks, Georgia's program at least provides a structured framework.

### Georgia vs. Other States: Renewable Energy Incentives

Let's put this in perspective. A typical 6kW solar system in Atlanta generates about 8,400 kWh annually. Through the solar buyback initiative:

Average annual credit: \$378

System payback period: 8-12 years

Lifetime savings (25 years): \$16,200+

Now compare that to Florida's net metering changes - they've slashed credits by 75% since 2022. Georgia's program might not be the most generous, but it's more stable than what our southern neighbors offer. And with solar installations growing 43% YoY in metro Atlanta, the program's clearly making an impact.

### 3 Ways to Maximize Your Solar Investment

Here's where most homeowners trip up - they install solar panels without optimizing for the buyback program's specific rules. Let me share a pro tip from a recent Decatur installation:

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- Time energy-intensive tasks (like EV charging) to daytime solar production
- Install consumption monitors to track grid exports in real-time
- Pair with battery storage for nighttime usage (though batteries aren't required)

Wait, no - that last point needs clarification. While Georgia doesn't mandate batteries, adding one could actually reduce your buyback earnings. Why? Because stored energy means less surplus to sell. It's a delicate balance between self-consumption and grid compensation.

### A Real Atlanta Family's Solar Journey

Meet the Carters in Buckhead - their 4,200 sq.ft home became a case study in solar optimization. By shifting pool pump operation to peak sunlight hours and installing smart thermostats, they increased their annual credits from \$287 to \$412. Not bad for a \$200 investment in home automation!

"We thought going solar meant just slapping panels on the roof," admits Jason Carter. "Turns out, you've got to play the utility's game to make the numbers work." Their experience mirrors what we're seeing across Gwinnett County - informed consumers achieve 22% better returns than passive adopters.

### Your Top Questions Answered

Q: Does GA Power buyback cover nighttime usage?

A: No, the program only compensates actual surplus fed to the grid during production hours.

Q: Can I combine this with federal tax credits?

A: Absolutely! The 30% federal ITC stacks with Georgia's solar incentives.

Q: What's the enrollment process timeline?

A: Typically 4-6 weeks from application to meter swap. Pro tip: Apply during winter to avoid summer backlog.

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